GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:60
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2000
AFFORESTATION DRIVE .
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any drive regarding the afforestation and checking deforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to handover the work like afforestation to the Panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 60 DUE ON 28-2- REGARDING AFFORESTATION DRIVE.

(a) and (b): The Central Government promotes afforestation through its several Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which are implemented throughout the country, besides the afforestation/tree planting schemes of the States Governments through State Plan budgets and externally-aided projects. The Modern Forest Fire Control scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is aimed at arresting deforestation. Also, specific Acts of the Parliament exist for this purpose, such as the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1982 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. A major initiative taken in the recent years by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for promoting afforestation and to arrest deforestation is to promote the participation of people in the afforestation programmes through Joint Forest Management (JFM).
Indicative List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes which include afforestation
Schemes operated by Ministry of Environment and Forests
1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme

2. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme

3. Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce (including medicinal plants) Scheme

4. Grants-in Aid Scheme for Voluntary Agencies

5. Association of Schedule Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forest on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests
Schemes operated by Ministry of Rural Development
1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
3. Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme
Schemes operated by Ministry of Agriculture
1. Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.
2. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
3. Reclamation of Alkali Soils.

(c) and (d): The guidelines on afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests envisage that these are implemented by the State Governments with people`s participation. Joint Forest Management is an integral part of the operational guidelines of these schemes, as per provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988.For this purpose, the Government of India had issued the guidelines to the various State Governments on the 1st June, 1990.So far Joint Forest Management resolutions have been adopted in 22 States covering 10.25 million ha. of forests being managed by 36,075 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) in the country. As per various State resolutions for JFM, representatives from Panchayats are also members of JFMCs. Under the above-mentioned schemes of Ministry of Rural Development, the projects are sanctioned in favour of the District Rural Development

Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs). Most of the DRDA/ZP Chairpersons are now elected representatives of Zilla Panchayats. At village level, there is a provision for Watershed Committee where two members of village panchayats are also members of the Watershed Committee, which executes watershed project works.